

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 01423 292045Z

63

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 EA-06 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8783

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1423

E.O. 11652: GDS

TARS: AEMG

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

FOR AMBASSADOR L. DEAN BROAN FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 97854 AND MVD 1401

1. IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO LAST NIGHT, I MADE PRESENTATION REVIETNAMESE REFUGEES AS INSTRUCTED. THE FOREIGN MINISTER MADE NO SPECIFIC OBSERVATION EXCEPT TO SAY HE WOULD GIVE ME A PROMPT REPLY.

2. THIS MORNING BLANCO CALLED ME AND STATED THAT WHILE T ISURU-GUAYAN GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO THE PLIGHT OF THE VIETNAMESE IS ONE OF MUCH SYMPATHY, THERE ARE MANY PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH WILL ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH ANY RESETTLEMENT HERE. HE NOTED THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTY OF THE COUNTRY, EXISTING UNEMPLOYMENT, AND FINANCIAL CRISIS AND SAID THAT THE GOU ITSELF WOULD HAVE NO FUNDS FOR SUCH PROBLEMS AS ACQUISITION OF LAND, RESETTLEMENT COSTS ETC. HE NOTED THAT THE RECENT IMMIGRATION HERE OF A SMALL GROUP OF KOREANS WAS MADE POSSIBLE ONLY BECAUSE THEY HAD SUFFICIENT CAPITAL TO PAY THEIR COSTS INCLUDING LAND ACQUISITION. I
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PAGE 02 MONTEV 01423 292045Z

SUGGESTED THAT AS VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES MIGHT BE INVOL-

VED IN RESETTLEMENT SOME FINANCING MIGHT COME AS WELL. I ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IF VIEWNAMESE WITH AGRICULTURAL SKILLS COULD BE PLACED INDIVIDUALLY ON ESTANCIAS AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES UNDER CONTRACT RATHER THAN AS INVESTORS OR COLONIZERS, CAPITAL NEEDS COULD BE REDUCED. THE MINISTER AGREED THAT THERE MIGHT BE MANY APPROACHES TO SOLVING THE PROBLEM. BUT HE DID STATE AGAIN THAT ANY SOLUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE ONE WHICH "WOULD NOT BURDEN THE STATE" FINANCIALLY. I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS REACTION BUT HOPED THE GOVERNMENT COULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AS TO HOW THE PROBLEMS HE FORESAW MIGHT BE SOLVED BEARING IN MIND THAT IN A HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM OF THIS MAGNITUDE ANY HELP WOULD BE WELCOME. I SUGGESTED EVEN AS LITTLE AS 100 PEOPLE WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT THOUGH PROBABLY MANAGEABLE PARTICIPATION. THE MINISTER AGREED THAT SUCH A NUMBER, WHILE SYMBOLIC, WOULD NONE THE LESS BE A CONTRIBUTION BUT REITERATED HIS CAVEATS.

3. REACTION IS MUCH AS WE ANTICIPATED AND REPORTED IN MVD 1401. I BELIEVE URUGUAY'S SYMPATHETIC REACTION IS AS GENUINE AS THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH THE MINISTER NOTED ARE REAL. I WOULD ASSESS THAT THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT SOME VIETNAMESE OF THE RIGHT TYPE COULD FIND A HOME HERE PROVIDED THAT MEANS ARE FOUND TO SOLVE THE PRACTICAL--FINANCIAL--PROBLEMS.
SIRACUSA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MONTEV01423
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750150-0919
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975048/aaaaagta.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 97854, 75 AND MVD 1401
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FOR AMBASSADOR L. DEAN BROAN FROM AMBASSADOR
TAGS: AEMR, SREF, UY, VS, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006